

NAYS—2

Hawley Scott (FL)

NOT VOTING—5

Barrasso Rounds Tillis
Luján Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Patrick Coffey, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.

VOTE ON COFFEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Coffey nomination?

Mr. REED. I ask for the yeas and nays, please.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 79, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 46 Ex.]

YEAS—79

Baldwin	Hassan	Risch
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rubio
Booker	Hoeven	Sasse
Brown	Inhofe	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Capito	Kennedy	Shelby
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Sinema
Casey	Leahy	Smith
Cassidy	Lee	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Sullivan
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cornyn	McConnell	Thune
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Tillis
Cramer	Merkley	Toomey
Crapo	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warrick
Ernst	Ossoff	Warren
Feinstein	Padilla	Whitehouse
Fischer	Paul	Wicker
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Graham	Portman	Young
Grassley	Reed	

NAYS—17

Blackburn	Hagerty	Marshall
Boozman	Hawley	Moran
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lankford	Tuberville
Daines	Lummis	

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso Rounds
Luján Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The Senator from Texas.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, folks in Texas and across the country are looking to their elected officials for sound leadership. Family budgets are being clobbered by the worst inflation in 40 years. From gas stations to grocery stores and everywhere in between, people are spending significantly more money on their basic expenses. Inflation has outpaced wage growth, giving the average worker a pay cut. That is what inflation does. It erodes and undermines your standard of living by charging more for basic goods and services.

Families aren't just stressing about their finances; they are also worried about their safety. The shocking surge in violent crime that began in 2020 hasn't just continued. In many places, it has accelerated, and last year several major cities had their deadliest year on record.

With the safety and well-being of their families at the forefront, our constituents want to know what is being done to address these problems. They are pretty basic.

What types of solutions do their representatives have in the Senate and the House? What actions are the White House contemplating and how long will it be before they can experience some relief? Unfortunately, when the voters gave Democrats the leadership of the White House and both Houses of Congress, the responsibility has largely been up to them to provide that leadership when it comes to the agenda.

Unfortunately, the real problems that my constituents in Texas are experiencing, like inflation and crime, those were the last things for our leaders here in Washington to consider. Forget real problems and real families; Democrats' governing strategy was dictated by partisan ambitions.

Our colleagues tried to give the Internal Revenue Service the unprecedented authority and manpower to snoop on the finances of virtually every single American. Now, we are accustomed to the fact that the IRS knows how much you make; that is how you calculate your taxes. But our Democratic colleagues went so far as to inquire for every family: How much money do you spend and what do you spend it on? That sort of invasion of privacy is unprecedented.

Then our colleagues on the other side of the aisle tried to get involved in the childcare business and dictate what sort of childcare and where you would be able to get that childcare and how much it would cost. Basically, saying to those who are motivated to help support families when it comes to childcare, that if you are a faith-based organization, you are not going to qualify. And because of the huge influx of money that the Democrats were planning to put into childcare, excluding a huge segment of the childcare providers was going to result in scarce supply and run up the price, further exacerbating inflation.

Then we saw when it comes to the wealthy—our Democratic colleagues like to be the party of the average working person and complain about Big Business and millionaires and billionaires. But what do they do when it comes to tax proposals? They propose to give millionaires and billionaires a tax cut by eliminating the cap on deductibility of State and local taxes in high-tax jurisdictions like New York and California. Who would have to pick up the responsibility or deficit? Well, you guessed it; it would be the middle class.

Then we saw our colleagues on the left use the last year to attempt a Federal takeover of State-run elections. Some even proposed to blow up the rules of the Senate and eliminate the filibuster, the one thing that forces us to do what doesn't come naturally, which is to work together and build bipartisan consensus.

There were proposals from the majority leader himself and others saying we are going to blow up the Senate because we cannot get our way, and the main reason we can't get our way is because we are unwilling to work with the other side of the aisle. Thank goodness two of our colleagues, the Senator from West Virginia and the Senator from Arizona, tapped the brakes, and we have not yet found ourselves in that situation.

So every one of these examples I mentioned has been tried and failed in this last year. But there is, of course, what economists call opportunity costs. We can't take back the last year that we wasted on these partisan efforts. A lot of the damage has been done. Invaluable time has been wasted on partisan legislation that was sure to go nowhere, while the most basic responsibilities of governing had been tossed aside.

Last year, our Democratic colleagues nearly dropped a debt bomb on our economy. We had to spend a lot of money during the COVID pandemic. And during the last year of the Trump administration, we did that on a bipartisan basis. But even after the imminent need for that help was subsiding, our colleagues decided to spend another \$2 trillion in the first months of the Biden administration. Only 10 percent of that was COVID-19 related and